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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

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Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

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UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2264

Page: 1

BOGOTA 05138 01 OF 03 071350Z PAGE 01 ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00 CTME-00 EB-00 VC-00 L-00 OPIC-01 SSO-00	NP-00 INL-00 ED-01 FRB-00 VCE-00 PM-00 SS-00	AID-00 DINT-00 OIGO-00 HHS-01 AC-01 PRS-00 STR-00	AMAD-00 DOEE-00 E-00 H-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 TEST-00	ACQ-00 DOTE-00 FAAE-00 TEDE-00 OES-01 P-00 TRSE-00	CEA-01 SRPP-00 FBIE-00 INR-00 OIC-02 SCT-00 T-00	COME-00 DS-00 UTED-00 IO-00 OMB-01 SP-00 USIE-00
	ASDS-01	DTC-00 NFAT-00	EPAE-00 SAS-00	PMB-00 /013W	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02

-----B9C6A7 071358Z /38 R 071346Z JUN 02 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9056 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

DIRONDCP WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

NSC WASHDC

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLASSIFIED

BOGOTA 05138 01 OF 03 071350Z UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 005138

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PREF, MASS, MOPS, PTER, SOCI, ENRG, CO

SUBJECT: NOTES FROM THE FIELD: ARAUCA

REF: A. BOGOTA 2820

B. BOGOTA 4991

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATE/CASE ID: 26 JAN 2005 200303455

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED Page: 2

Current Handling: SBU

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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: EMBOFFS TRAVELED TO ARAUCA DEPARTMENT TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ARAUCA CITY, TO VISIT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S (OXY) CANO LIMON FIELD, AND TO VIEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SPONSORED BY OXY'S EL ALCARAVAN FOUNDATION. ARAUCA HAS BEEN BESET BY VIOLENCE SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF OIL IN THE 1980'S AND EMBOFFS' VISIT WAS PUNCTUATED BY TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS, UNRELATED TO EMBOFFS' PRESENCE (REF B). LONG DOMINANCE BY GUERRILLA GROUPS IN THE AREA HAS LED TO SUSPICION AND STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND THE MILITARY. ALL PARTIES POINT TO THE NEED FOR GREATER COMMITMENT TO ARAUCA'S PROBLEMS BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

OXY: TRYING TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

2. (U) SINCE OXY BEGAN PUMPING OIL FROM THE CANO LIMON FIELD UNCLASSIFIED

BOGOTA 05138 01 OF 03 071350Z IN THE MID 80'S, IT HAS SUPPORTED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OVER AND ABOVE THE MONEY THE REGION RECEIVES FROM ROYALTY PAYMENTS. ONE OF THE MAJOR VEHICLES FOR THIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN THE ALCARAVAN FOUNDATION, NAMED FOR AN INDIGENOUS BIRD OF THE ARAUCA REGION. END NOTE.) THE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. EMBOFFS VISITED AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM WHERE TECHNIQUES FOR DEVELOPING NON-TRADITIONAL CROPS, AS WELL AS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ARE TAUGHT. THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FIRST RAISE PARTICIPATING FAMILIES TO SUBSISTENCE LEVELS AND THEN THROUGH MICRO-CREDIT GRANTS HELP THEM FORM COOPERATIVES THAT WILL DEVELOP SMALL BUSINESSES. THE COOPERATIVES ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO DIVERSIFY, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPLEMENTING SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION BY RAISING CATTLE THAT CAN EAT THE EXCESS SUGAR CANE. THE COOPERATIVES ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP VALUE-ADDED BUSINESSES, SUCH AS REFINING CACAO AND SELLING FINISHED CHOCOLATE. THERE ARE ROUGHLY 1400 FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN ABOUT 1900 PROJECTS. THE AVERAGE FAMILY RAISED THEIR MONTHLY INCOME FROM USD 74 PER MONTH IN 2000 TO USD 105 PER MONTH IN 2001, WHICH IS ABOVE THE COLOMBIAN POVERTY LINE.

3. (SBU) LIKEWISE, OXY HAS SUPPORTED URBAN TRAINING AND JOB CREATION PROJECTS. IN ARAUCA, A COMMUNITY CENTER THAT PROVIDES COURSES AND MICRO-CREDITS TO SMALL BUSINESSES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AS WELL AS A SMALL SEWING FACILITY THAT TRAINS WOMEN HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. THE FACILITY ALSO PROVIDES AFTER SCHOOL TRAINING TO GIRLS FROM A LOCAL ORPHANAGE. FROM TALKING TO

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

COURSE ATTENDEES, AS WELL AS THE STAFF OF THE PROGRAMS, IT SEEMS THAT THE FOUNDATION'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN INSPIRING A HIGHER LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE AS WELL AS INCOME.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 05138 01 OF 03 071350Z (COMMENT: WHILE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A PILOT PROGRAM, AND CERTAINLY IMPORTANT TO THE FAMILIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN IT, WITH ONLY 1400 FAMILIES, THE PROJECT IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO CAUSE GREAT CHANGE IN THE DEPARTMENTAL ECONOMY. END COMMENT.)

OPPORTUNITIES MISSED

4. (SBU) THE MET
WITH EMBOFFS AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE SITUATION IN
WHICH ARAUCA FINDS ITSELF. OVER A DECADE OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS
HAVE LEFT ARAUCANS WONDERING WHERE THE MONEY WENT. HE SAID
THAT THE CITY HAS BECOME MORE VIOLENT AND LESS LIVABLE. AS
AN EXAMPLE OF MISUSE OF ROYALTY FUNDS,

THE HOSPITAL HAS AGAIN FALLEN INTO MISMANAGEMENT AND THAT A STATE OF THE ART ONCOLOGY UNIT IS NOW PRACTICALLY UNUSED. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE STRONG DISTRUST BETWEEN THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY POPULATION HE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE MILITARY COMMITS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ARAUCANS HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF COMPETENCE AND POLARIZATION IN THE DEPARTMENT. (COMMENT: SEEMED BOTH ENERGETIC AND COMPETENT, BUT ALSO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2267

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05138 02 OF 03 071350Z

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	MEDE-00	EB-00	ED-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	HHS-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	10-00
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PM-00 ·	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-01	DTC-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W			

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

B6

В6

UNCLASSIFIED Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Channel: n/a

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R 071346Z JUN 02 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9057 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY LIMA AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY QUITO AMCONSUL RECIFE DIRONDCP WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC CIA WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC JOINT STAFF WASHDC NSC WASHDC USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLASSIFIED

BOGOTA 05138 02 OF 03 071350Z PAGE 02 UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 005138

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PREF, MASS, MOPS, PTER, SOCI, ENRG, CO

SUBJECT: NOTES FROM THE FIELD: ARAUCA

OVERWHELMED BY	WHEN ASKED
ABOUT HIS PLANS HE MENTIONE	D APPLYING
FOR ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES SO HE COULD RESUM	E HIS
MEDICAL CAREER END COMMENT)	

(SBU) IN HIS MEETING WITH EMBOFFS,

PAINTED A MUCH BLEAKER PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN ARAUCA. HE REPEATED MANY OF THE SAME HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS FROM REF A. IN FACT, HE DID NOT MENTION ANY NEW CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE OR CASES THAT HAD ACTUALLY GONE TO THE FISCALIA FOR INVESTIGATION. HE ASSERTED THAT THERE ARE NO PARAMILITARIES IN ARAUCA AND THAT ALLEGED PARAMILITARY ATTACKS ARE REALLY CONDUCTED BY OUT OF UNIFORM SOLDIERS AND POLICE. DESPITE THE TONE OF HIS UNSUPPORTED ACCUSATIONS, SUMMARIZED THE BELIEF OF MANY ARAUCANS ACCUSATIONS, THAT OIL HAS MADE ARAUCA POORER BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE OIL BOOM AND THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE. IN HIS OPINION MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT MORE MILITARY AID

FROM THE USG TO SUPPORT PIPELINE PROTECTION IN ARAUCA WILL LEAD TO MORE PARAMILITARY ACTIONS, MORE DEATHS AND MORE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

B6

B6

B6

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

DISPLACEMENTS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS VIEW

6. (SBU) EMBOFFS WERE INFORMED THE FOLLOWING MORNING THAT UNCLASSIFIED

BOGOTA 05138 02 OF 03 071350Z PAGE 03 DURING THE NIGHT TWO BOMBS HAD EXPLODED IN ARAUCA, KILLING ONE PERSON AND WOUNDING EIGHT (REF B). THIS SET THE TONE FOR THE SERIES OF MEETINGS HELD DURING THE DAY. EMBOFFS VISITED THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND OBSERVED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S SUITE AND MET WITH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CHIEF OF SECURITY. THE GOVERNOR, WHO WAS APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AFTER THE ELECTED GOVERNOR WAS REMOVED FROM OFFICE FOR CORRUPTION, SAID THAT HE VIEWED THIS AS BUSINESS AS USUAL IN ARAUCA. HE REITERATED THE NEED FOR STRONG NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ARAUCA TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THE DEPARTMENT FACES IN MANAGING THE OIL ROYALTIES AND ESTABLISHING PUBLIC ORDER.

7. (SBU) INFORMED EMBOFFS IN THEIR MEETING THAT AFTER HAVING SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS IN ARAUCA THE DAY OF THE MEETING WAS HIS LAST THE WINDOWS TO HIS OFFICE WERE BLOWN OUT BY THE SMALLER OF THE TWO BOMBS, BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE TARGET WAS A MILITARY PATROL, NOT HIS OFFICE. HE DISAGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT THAT THE BOMBS WERE JUST NORMAL ARAUCAN VIOLENCE AND SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE BOMBS WERE A RETALIATION BY THE FARC ON THE POPULATION FOR VOTING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT URIBE IN THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT HIS TIME IN ARAUCA HAD BEEN DIFFICULT AND THAT HE HAD BEEN "JUDICIALLY ATTACKED" BY THE MILITARY. HE ASSERTED THAT THE ARMY VIEWS ANYBODY FROM THE AREA OR APPOINTED TO THE AREA AS A GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZER. HE SAID THAT THE PARAMILITARIES IN THE AREA HAVE BECOME VERY WARY OF PROVOKING CLAIMS OF A MASSACRE AND HAVE THEREFORE BEEN CONDUCTING ONLY SELECTIVE KILLINGS OF ONE OR TWO PEOPLE UNCLASSIFIED

BOGOTA 05138 02 OF 03 071350Z PAGE 04 AT A TIME. HE SAID THAT THE ARMY'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS THIN AND THAT THEY ONLY DO THE BARE MINIMUM TO KEEP FROM JEOPARDIZING FUTURE FUNDS. (COMMENT: VISIBLY RELIEVED TO BE LEAVING ARAUCA. HE ASKED EMBOFFS IF THEY HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ASYLUM TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, OR SWEDEN, SINCE EVEN DID NOT SEEM TO BE FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO PROTECT HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES IN ARAUCA. END COMMENT.)

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

B6

B6

B6

B6

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED · UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Page: 6 Channel: n/a

B6

8. (SBU) WORKERS FROM THE SOCIAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK (COLOMBIA'S RELIEF ORGANIZATION FOR DISPLACED PERSONS) SAID THE SITUATION IN ARAUCA IS CURRENTLY MANAGEABLE, BUT THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT IF THE AUC DOES START A SIGNIFICANT PUSH INTO ARAUQUITA AND SARAVENA THERE COULD BE LARGE DISPLACEMENTS. THEY ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE WEAKNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEAL WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS, AND THEIR PREFERENCE TO LEAVE PROBLEMS FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE. CITED THE NEED FOR MORE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM, BUT SAID THAT THEY HAVE A GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE OF DATABASES IN PLACE TO TRACK IDPS.

9. (SBU) EMBOFFS VISITED THE

DESCRIBED A "VERY DEPRESSED AND HOPELESS POPULATION THAT IS TIRED AND ANGUISHED." HE ECHOED EARLIER MEETINGS AND SAID THAT OIL HAS NOT HELPED THE REGION AND HAS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ2268

BOGOTA 05138 03 OF 03 071351Z

PAGE 01 ACTION WHA-00

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	·CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	ED-01	OIGO-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	FRB-00	HHS-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	ASDS-01	DTC-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W		

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R 071346Z JUN 02

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9058

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

DIRONDCP WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Page: 7

Channel: n/a

NSC WASHDC USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05138 03 OF 03 071351Z UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 005138

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

10 (SRU) THE

TAGS: PHUM, PREF, MASS, MOPS, PTER, SOCI, ENRG, CO

SUBJECT: NOTES FROM THE FIELD: ARAUCA

TAKEN A POPULATION THAT WAS MERELY POOR BEFORE AND MADE IT MISERABLE. HE FELT THAT THE BOMB ATTACKS WERE IN RETALIATION FOR THE ELECTION RESULTS AND THAT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT IS HOW THE WERE PERCEIVED BY THE POPULACE. HE SAID THAT THE STATE, AND ESPECIALLY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO BETTER PROTECT ITS CITIZENS.

	HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL
COMPLAINTS FROM CITIZENS ABOUT	DAMAGE CAUSED TO THEIR HOMES
DURING SEARCHES BY THE ARMY.	THE ARMY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO
THE REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS	S FILED BY
SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE C	COMPLAINTS
HAVE TO DO WITH MISAPPROPRIATIO	ON OF FUNDS OR FAILURE TO
PROVIDE SERVICES BY THE LOCAL O	GOVERNMENT.
THERE WAS A LACK OF TRAINING AN	ND INSTITUTIONS IN THE
DEPARTMENT AND CALLED FOR MORE	SUPPORT AND TRAINING FROM THE
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.	
•	
11. (SBU) EMBOFFS WERE PROVIDED	SECURITY BY AND ACCOMPANIED
BY	
IN CONVER	RSATIONS WITH HIM, HE NOT ONLY
HIGHLIGHTED THE LIKELY HUMAN RI	GHTS COMPLAINTS EMBOFFS WOULD

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05138 03 OF 03 071351Z
HEAR BUT ALSO OFFERED REBUTTALS. HE SAID ONE COMMON EXAMPLE
FREQUENTLY GIVEN AS PROOF OF MILITARY COLLUSION WITH THE
PARAMILITARIES IS THE FACT THAT DURING A RECENT BATTLE
BETWEEN THE AUC AND FARC AN ARMY HELICOPTER OVERFLEW THE
FIGHTING, LANDED AND RECOVERED AUC BODIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT
OF COURSE THE ARMY WENT TO BREAK UP THE FIGHTING AND THAT THE
ARMY SEIZED ALL OF THE BODIES, BOTH FARC AND AUC, SO THE ARMY
COULD GATHER INTELLIGENCE. HE SAID THAT MANY OF THE
ALLEGATIONS FLOATING AROUND ARE "BACKGROUND NOISE" AND RUMORS

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 7

В6

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: SBU

Document Number: 2002BOGOTA05138

Page: 8

Channel: n/a

STARTED BY THE FARC TO TRY AND DISTRACT THE ARMY FROM PERFORMING ITS DUTIES. AFTER THE AUC BEGAN ARRIVING IN TAME, THE ARMY WAS ORDERED TO DISPATCH A UNIT FROM CRAVO NORTE TO TAME. CITIZENS OF CRAVO NORTE BEGAN COMPLAINING AND STATED THAT THE AUC WOULD USE THEIR ABSENCE TO ENTER THE CITY. COMPLAINTS PARALYZED THE ARMY'S RESPONSE TO BOTH SITUATIONS.

C	0	M	M	E	N	1

12. (SBU) ARAUCA IS A TOUGH PLACE. THE FEW BRIGHT SPOTS, SUCH AS THE WORK DONE BY THE FOUNDATION EL ALCARAVAN OR ISEEM TO BE OVERSHADOWED COMPETENT LEADERS BY THE FEAR AND SUSPICION CAUSED BY YEARS OF GUERRILLA INFLUENCE AND THE CORRESPONDING PARAMILITARY AND ARMED FORCES BACKLASH. WITH LITTLE OR NO STATE PRESENCE, THE OIL ROYALTIES THAT COULD HAVE IMPROVED THE REGION HAVE LARGELY BEEN SQUANDERED. ARAUCA HAS THE HIGHEST PUBLIC SPENDING PER CAPITA OF ANY DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTRY, AND YET, THE POPULATION LIVES IN FEAR AND NEAR THE POVERTY LINE. CANO LIMON FIELD WILL PROBABLY PLAY OUT IN THE NEXT DECADE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 05138 03 OF 03 071351Z AND, UNLESS THERE IS ANOTHER BIG OIL FIND IN THE AREA, ARAUCA WILL RETURN TO BEING A BACKWATER ON THE NATIONAL SCENE AND NOT WORTH FIGHTING OVER. PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS SEEM LIMITED WITHOUT A SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO REESTABLISH A STRONG STATE PRESENCE IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS, AND WITHOUT STRONGER CONTROLS ON THE INVESTMENT OF OIL ROYALTIES. PATTERSON

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 8